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Report from Cartagena—Sanitary conditions at Savanilla and Barranquilla.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Jacobs reports, July 19:

Savanilla is the port of Barranquilla, with which it is connected by a railroad 20 miles in extent. It is situated on high, sandy soil, about 6 miles from the mouth of the Magdalena River, and has about 1,000 inhabitants.

All water is brought from Barranquilla in tank cars and supplied daily. This scarcity of water makes mosquito breeding places rare, as the water remaining each day is emptied in order that the utensils and barrels may be filled with fresh water. I could find no pools of stagnant water, the character of the soil preventing their formation, the rains soaking in almost immediately.

I found no cases of fever of any kind.

The pier is four-fifths of a mile from land and the freight for vessels is brought out over an open steel-work trestle which has but one track and a plank walk at the side about 5 feet wide.

No mosquitoes were found on the pier and I found none in any of the cars, though I looked for them at various times during my stay. I was told that mosquitoes were not known on the pier. I found none in the town, but was informed that they were occasionally present in small numbers.

There are no water barrels or tanks on either pier or trestle.

There is a great amount of freight brought over the railroad from Barranquilla, none coming by river because of the inability of boats to cross the bar at the mouth of the river. Sixty per cent of the commerce of Colombia is through Barranquilla and Savanilla.

There are 2 small stations between Savanilla and Barranquilla, called Salgar and La Playa, which are in about the same condition as Savanilla and receive their water from the same source, though at both places the Magdalena River forms shallow lagoons in conjunction with the salt water backed up from the sea. The water is brackish and not drinkable, though used for washing clothes and for bathing.

Savanilla, Salgar, and La Playa have no sewerage systems and almost all of the houses are constructed of wood and palm leaves.

Barranquilla has an estimated population of about 40,000, and the general health is good. There were no epidemic diseases at the time of my visit.

The water supply is by a system from the Magdalena River and is quite plentiful in the lower part of the city, but the upper part is supplied from tanks on account of lack of pressure.

There is no sewerage system, drains emptying into streets and water-closets into cesspools under the houses.

The soil is sandy, and is underlaid by a very porous strata of limestone.

The cesspools are not walled nor cemented. They are never emptied, and the diluted fecal matter and other waste percolate the limestone. Water seeps into the pools and very probably there is free communication between the river and many of these cesspools.

Stegomyia and *Anopheles* mosquitoes are very numerous.

There are occasional cases of yellow fever at points on the river,

but the chances of infected mosquitoes getting down to Savanilla and aboard ships are few.

Barranquilla has no active board of health. One was appointed about a year ago, but no physicians are among the members and no sanitary work has been done, nor has any action been taken toward the elimination of mosquitoes.

Each householder pays for carting the waste and garbage from his place, and as it is entirely a private matter many places are cleaned up only after months of accumulation.

I found mosquito-breeding barrels and other receptacles in various places, but no attention is paid to them.

COSTA RICA.

Reports from Limon, fruit port.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Goodman reports as follows: Week ended August 3, 1907. Estimated population, 6,000; general sanitary condition of this port and the surrounding country during the week, good.

Bills of health issued to the following-named vessels:

Date.	Vessel.	Destination.	Number of crew.	Number of passengers from this port.	Number of passengers in transit.
July 28	San José	Boston	44	13	0
29	Sibiria	New York	94	3	10
31	Banan	Mobile	16	0	0
31	Mobila	New Orleans	49	1	18
Aug. 1	Alps	do	28	0	0
1	Grib	do	20	0	0
2	Matina	New York	47	1	0
2	Norman	do	21	1	0
3	Harald	Mobile	18	0	0
3	Hispania	New Orleans	20	0	0

One bill of health for Panaman port viséed.

CUBA.

Reports from Habana—Inspection and fumigation of vessels—Yellow fever case at San Nicolas; sanitary measures.

Acting Assistant Surgeon McConnell reports, August 1 and 6:

Week ended July 27, 1907.

Vessels inspected and bills of health issued	17
Vessels not inspected and bills of health issued	8
Crew of outgoing vessels inspected	866
Crew of outgoing vessels not inspected	240
Passengers of outgoing vessels inspected	640
Passengers of outgoing vessels not inspected	26
Certificates of immunity to yellow fever issued	114
Persons entering Triscornia for observation prior to sailing	79
Persons transferred from Triscornia to vessels	49
Vessels fumigated prior to sailing	7